

Parent Involvement in Schools

INTEGRATING THE TWO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF OUR CHILDREN

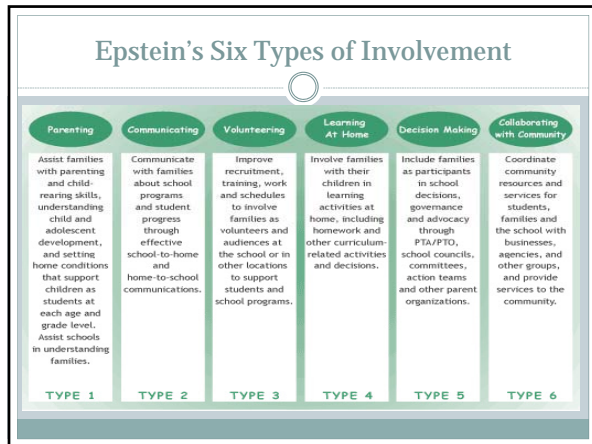
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The Research Shows

- School age children spend 70% of their waking hours (including weekends and holidays) outside of school.
- The most effective forms of parent involvement are those, which engage parents in working directly with their children on learning activities at home.
- 86% of the general public believes that support from parents is the most important way to improve the schools.
- The most consistent predictors of children's academic achievement and social adjustment are parent expectations of the child's academic attainment and satisfaction with their child's education at school.

The Research Shows

- The more parents participate in schooling, in a sustained way, at every level -- in advocacy, decision-making and oversight roles, as fund-raisers and boosters, as volunteers and para-professionals, and as home teachers -- the better for student achievement.
- When parents come to school regularly, it reinforces the view in the child's mind that school and home are connected and that school is an integral part of the whole family's life.



The Reality

- How often do you view what your kids bring home from the school?
- How often do you volunteer for school activities?
- When do you go to the school?
- Which activities do you attend at school?
- Do you know your student's teachers?

One Parent's Perspective

- At the end of the day we are often wore out ourselves and would like to relax, but...
- Our children often go from school to afterschool activities up until dinner
- Then we have to cook dinner, then clean the kitchen afterwards
- Then the game is on or a good TV show
- Where is the time?

We need as much support and teamwork as possible!

Building Bridges

- **Community Events**
 - Integrating into existing Community Events
 - Eating and celebration is always good
- **Extra-curricular Events**
 - Setting things up around such events
 - Meetings
 - Sign up sheets
- **PTA/PTO**
 - Seeking assistance and support
- **Parent Lounge & Welcoming Atmosphere**

Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project

- **Is an inexpensive and easily replicated model of family engagement that has been proven to end the cycle of blame between families and school staff by building trust and respect, instilling cultural competency and increasing personal and professional capacity for all involved.**
 - *Teachers say that what they've learned about the student outside of school has been invaluable in teaching to the student inside the classroom.*
 - *We hear it all the time: not only do students behave better when they know their teacher is in touch with their parents, but their responsiveness increases when the teacher connects with the student at home*
 - *"The greatest advantage that the home visit makes to a classroom teacher, at least those of us at the secondary level, is that the parent goes from being an unknown to an ally in a very short time. Not all problems can be solved, even with allies, but it is so empowering to have a partner in the effort." Debbie Polhemus, Teacher*

Building Relationships

- **Dropping assumptions**
 - Professionals who see parents as "the problem" and themselves as "rescuers" cannot effectively gain the trust of parents.
 - All too readily, we adopt the half-truth or fiction that parents are not "workable," thus leading to a self-fulfilling prophecy where we write off the family without really trying.
 - Research suggests that successful programs involve parents as partners with professionals.

Building Relationships

- Dropping assumptions from both sides
- Walking a mile in another's shoes
- Humility, Humor, & Food
- Mutual Respect
- Maintaining the focus on the YOUTH
 - Youth led often works best
 - Results in 20 years...
- What are some things that have worked for you on gaining parent involvement?
- We often get caught up in the busyness of life and forget what it is all about. Bettering our world for the generations to follow.

Questions or Suggestions

Thanks, respect and gratitude to you all!

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj2ofrX7iAk&feature=watch_response

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